













Let's Save Together

water wise

City of Santa Barbara

Water Wise Lawn Alternatives

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| <p>Berkeley Sedge or European Grey Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex tumulicola</i> or <i>C. divulsa</i></p> <p>(<i>C. tumulicola</i> is CA Native)</p> |   | <p>Planted from plugs. Both species are clump-forming and can be mowed early on to keep from clumping; otherwise they can be used as meadow. Highly adaptable to slopes, sun, or shady areas. Ideal to plant during summer.</p> |
| <p>Blue Grama</p> <p><i>Bouteloua gracilis</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p> |   | <p>Planted from seed. Spreads slowly and tolerates foot traffic. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has two blue grama lawns available to view. Ideal to plant during summer. Must apply for City Exemption before watering.</p> |
| <p>Blue Sedge</p> <p><i>Carex flacca</i> or <i>Carex gluaca</i></p> |   | <p>Planted from plugs. A silver-blue evergreen sedge that spreads slowly and can tolerate foot traffic. Grows to about 6" but can also be mowed. Ideal to plant during summer.</p> |
| <p>Common Yarrow</p> <p><i>Achillea millefolium</i></p> <p>(CA Native)</p> |   | <p>Planted from seed or plugs. Mow about every 6 weeks, or less if the surface is not going to be walked on. Flowers without mowing. Ideal to plant during winter. Yarrow lawn can be viewed at SB Botanic Garden. Great for in between pavers.</p> |
| <p>Kurapia</p> <p><i>Lippia nodiflora</i></p> |   | <p>Spreading low-growth groundcover, planted from plugs. Accented by small white flowers beneficial to bees May through November. Will tolerate light foot traffic and can be mowed to remove flowers. Ideal to plant April-June.</p> |



Water Conservation Program (805) 564-5460 or SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise

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| <p>Silver Carpet</p> <p><i>Dymondia margaretae</i></p> |   | <p>Planted from plugs. This is a slowly spreading, very flat groundcover with silver green leaves and tiny yellow flowers in summer. No mowing required. Ideal to plant during winter. Great for in between permeable pavers or out in the parkway.</p> |
| <p>'UC Verde' Buffalo Grass</p> <p><i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> 'UC Verde'</p> |   | <p>Typically planted from plugs. Grows deep roots and can be mowed every 2-3 weeks or less. Goes dormant in the winter and turns golden, eliminating need to mow or water during this period. Ideal to plant during summer.</p> |

Lawn Care

- Reduce the size of your lawn to match your needs for recreation
- If you are removing lawn, thoroughly research which method you would like to use. We recommend [sheet mulching](#) in order to improve soil health and permeability, however this method does take longer than other methods. It is important to ensure that the previous lawn/weeds are removed before planting a new lawn.
- Water wisely according to the weather. Use the Watering % Adjust posted weekly on our website to adjust your timer.
- Improve the efficiency of your irrigation system: Make sure you have a pressure regulator and either use low precipitation or rotating nozzles, or a sub-surface drip system.
- Check your irrigation system regularly. Since lawns are irrigated at night, mis-aligned or broken irrigation components can go undetected.
- Reduce mowing frequency to allow grasses to grow longer and shade the soil/roots to reduce evaporation.
- Become familiar with your lawn alternative, many water wise lawn alternatives go dormant during the year and do not need watering during their dormancy period.

